



Socialdemokraterna

A Programme for Africa

A Just World is possible

Adopted by the Party Council, September 2009



Contents

1	Introduction	3
2	Good governance, human rights and democracy	6
2.1	Social development and security in a time of change	7
2.2	Education	8
3	Jobs and Growth	9
3.1	Agriculture.....	10
3.2	Trade and investment.....	11
4	Environment, energy, climate and sustainable development.....	14
4.1	Development Aid and partnership	15
4.2	Health: HIV/aids, malaria and TBC	16
4.3	Peace and freedom.....	17
4.4	Equality between women and men	19
4.5	Trade Union rights.....	19



"Africa has different faces; death and violence are a reality for many people. At the same time we can see promising changes, an African renaissance appears possible. The government aims to develop a closer partnership with the emerging democratic societies. We aim to develop our strong historical engagement in line with the demands of a new age."

Anna Lindh

1 Introduction

Africa today is not a continent of victims. It is rather a proud and rich part of the world that both can and will develop its potential to the full. Africa consists of 54 countries, all very different from one another. Each country has unique conditions and any policy for Africa must build on knowledge of each and every one of them. Peace, democracy and respect for human rights and economic development are basic factors that affect how countries develop. During the past decade alone Africa has seen the rise of 18 new democracies even though many are underdeveloped. A basic condition for a sustainable development is the continued process of democratization. Growth in Africa, south of the Sahara, has over recent years averaged between 3 and 6 percent. That means positive and tangible changes that are seldom recognized. The living conditions of people have been improved. But the process is too slow and too few resources are devoted to social development. Nor are the fruits of economic growth are not by all.

Rightly there is a focus on the huge challenges facing Africa: conflicts, HIV/AIDS, malaria, TBC, urbanization, unemployment and the shortcomings in democracy, crimes against human rights, widespread corruption and ethnic conflicts. The global challenges in the climate and in the environment apply to a great extent in Africa as well. Large portions of Africa's population risk being adversely affected by climate change.

When the prices of foodstuffs and energy rise those who live on the narrowest of margins are the ones who suffer most. The situation for the poorest becomes direr and this has led to social unrest both in Africa and in other parts of the world. These developments are intertwined and complex and a policy for Africa must build on cooperation and be multi-faceted. The road from poverty goes by way of a sustainable economic growth.



A first step in a social democratic policy for Africa must therefore involve the creation of a more nuanced public image of Africa and allow the complex and dynamic reality of the 54 countries in Africa to emerge.

Poverty is widespread in many countries. It is a question both of a lack of material resources and of the absence of opportunities to affect one's own living conditions, to make one's voice heard, to exercise influence. In the past 50 years the population of Africa has risen from around 200 million to 800 million. The average life span is increasing and infant mortality rates are falling.

The majority of the poor in Africa are women and children. The lack of equality between men and women is a major obstacle in reducing poverty. The structures that prevent more than half the population of Africa from enjoying progress must be pulled down. Equality between men and women is a right and moreover a precondition for both economic as well as a socially sustainable development.

Africa is a young continent. The majority of the population is under the age of 25. The young represent the hopes of as well as being a challenge to Africa. In this regard the UN Convention on Children's Rights is a foundation on which to build the work of strengthening and protecting the rights of children and young people in Africa. Youth and urbanization in combination with poverty and unemployment are a breeding ground for social conflicts and tensions. A cornerstone in our policy must be to support an African strategy – where urbanization and migration from the countryside to the larger cities can become an opportunity for development – not a hinder.

The challenge facing the countries of Africa is something we have experienced ourselves in our history – the struggle to escape poverty. Social democracy places the human being and his or her work and skills at the centre of politics. Jobs for all and life-long learning.

Africa's liberation from colonialism in the 60s and beyond was strongly supported by Sweden. A social democratic policy for the countries of Africa must build on and develop that tradition.

Support for the countries of Africa has always been deeply rooted in Sweden's parliament as well as in society at large, with the exception of the Conservative Moderate party and sections of the business community. The Swedish popular movements' cooperation with civil society in Africa is well developed. We want to encourage this type of cooperation in particular and efforts must be made to intensify the exchange between Swedish and African youth.



Africa's integration into the globalised economy and politics is necessary for development. We want to see a global trade policy that allows for growth within the agricultural and energy sectors in each country. Africa must be better able to make the most of the potential advantages in the globalization process.

The relations between Africa and the surrounding world, its peoples and nations, companies and organizations must build on the foundations of international law and rest on an understanding of human rights that puts the individual at the centre. Democracy and human rights are a necessary foundation but they are insufficient when it comes to ensuring that the fruits of globalization will be shared with the peoples of the continent of Africa. This can only come about through a proactive policy with strong institutions, good governance, good leadership and the fight against corruption. This provides the ground for economic progress, investment and trade.

The renewed relations with Africa will be developed by means of a broad exchange of knowledge between representatives from different sections of society such as researchers, representatives from the business community, from trade unions and from cultural institutions.

In this way a social democratic policy for Africa can promote the growth of long term relations and partnership.

The Social Democrats program for Africa:

- builds on sustainable relations and long term partnership
- has as its starting point the fight against poverty, where democracy, human rights and peace are necessary preconditions
- is a broad and encompassing program aimed at deepening the image of Africa, increasing the understanding of and the engagement in the cause of the continent.



2 Good governance, human rights and democracy

A social democratic policy for Africa must give priority to good governance and good leadership. The development of democracy and government has reached different stages in different countries. War and conflicts have produced a backlash in some countries at the same time as we have witnessed huge democratic successes in other areas.

An integration of African countries into the world economy requires the existence of democratic societies with well functioning institutions. It should therefore be a priority for a Swedish Africa policy to support the initiative of the Union of African States and work for democracy and good governance, as well as supporting the OAU through dialogue with our African partners on a multilateral as well as on a bilateral basis and through the institutions of civil society.

A basic precondition must be the principle of African and local ownership when it comes to formulating the problems as well as setting the agenda, this together with respect for the universal human rights of every individual.

Good governance has several dimensions. It covers the construction and management of the apparatus of the state on every level – nationally, regionally and locally – and must be infused with a sense of efficiency, openness, the rule of law as well as control and the participation of the citizens.

Free, democratic and regular general elections are necessary, but not sufficient conditions for creating a democratic government. This requires that the activities of the whole of society, not least those of the government, the political parties and the state administration be infused with a respect for human rights, laws and regulations and that tax revenue is used efficiently to the benefit of the citizens and for the development of society as a whole. The strengthening of the rule of law is a precondition for the development of good governance. Free and independent media have an important role to play in controlling those in power and informing citizens of their rights.

Political parties that function are important cornerstones in a democracy. Without democratic parties, with the voluntary active participation on the part of the citizens and with party structures that guarantee members the right to take the initiative and to make decisions within the framework of a democratic process no democracy can take root in any society.



Political parties are a part of the civil society and are the bridgehead required to channel the demands of the citizens into a program of action, where the accountability can be demanded from those elected on the basis of this program. The Swedish input into and support for development of democratic parties is vital. A social democratic policy for Africa should focus on the work of creating democratic parties, an vibrant civil society, for democracy, human rights and peace. We must support institutions that work for stable democratic structures and good leadership. The late Swedish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Anna Lindh's initiative in promoting a dialogue on political leadership between Nordic and African leaders must be developed.

Fighting corruption and economic crimes as well as the existence of tax havens and harmful tax competition between countries are important components in a policy for Africa that strives to strengthen the economic and political institutions in the African countries. We intend to appoint a special Swedish ambassador with to fight corruption and tax evasion.

The Social Democrats hold:

- that the initiative and work of the OAU for democracy and good governance must be supported
- that the engagement on the part of the civil society in Sweden and its exchange with Africa must be strengthened and facilitated
- the initiative of Anna Lindh in promoting a dialogue and good leadership must be developed
- a special Swedish ambassador with responsibility for fighting corruption and tax evasion will be appointed
- Measures to strengthen human rights not least freedom of the press will be supported.

2.1 Social development and security in a time of change

Globalization has meant that the proportion of the world living in poverty has been reduced. At the same time we live in a world that is tangibly unequal and unjust. Democracy, equality between people and recognition of basic human rights in working life are conditions for social and economic progress. The long term struggle against poverty should be focused on a reduction in the divisions between people. Experience shows that this also leads to a reduction in the level of absolute poverty. A job with decent conditions and a wage that people can live on provide the security that is needed if people are to change their situation in life; it strengthens their self



esteem and makes it possible for people to influence society. This is especially urgent in a world that is affected by sharp increases in the price of foodstuffs.

The Social Democrats hold:

- that the promotion of a long term policy to fight poverty and reduce social gaps must be promoted.

2.2 Education

One of the major challenges facing Africa today is the need to create opportunities for good education at every level in society.

More and more children than ever before attend school, but colonialism and discrimination have left huge shortcomings in their wake in African society. There is no doubt that education today is a scarce commodity, especially for girls, and it acts as a bottleneck for the development of Africa. Popular education is an important factor in the work of eradicating illiteracy and raising the low level of education.

Illiteracy is a major problem, the labour force is to a large extent uneducated and unemployment is high for this group at the same time as there is a shortage of skilled workers and researchers. A vital part of the strategy in countries and in cooperation between countries that work together must therefore be the question of life-long learning. Student exchanges will be promoted and developed. A special effort will be made to in the education of girls and women. Sweden will also in cooperation with other actors support higher education and research. Cooperation between Swedish and African universities will therefore be widened and deepened.

The Social Democrats hold:

- that increased efforts must be made in education with special efforts in ensuring that girls will enjoy the same opportunities as boys when it comes to attending school.



3 Jobs and Growth

Jobs are the link between economic growth, economic justice and a reduction in poverty levels. A focus on employment is therefore an important part of the work of coordinating the perspectives on rights and development. Jobs and growth are the basis for development on the African continent just as they are in the rest of the world. There is a clear link between informal and formal jobs. Those countries of the world that have succeeded in establishing a larger share of the jobs on the formal labour market have also reduced poverty levels.

A social democratic policy for Africa has therefore as its overriding goal support for a sustainable and high level of growth, full employment, decent working conditions and a fair distribution of resources.

We should support African countries in setting up of goals of their own, goals that are aimed at creating a stable macroeconomic situation with strong public finances and a stable price level at the same time as these goals contribute to a more just distribution of incomes and higher levels of employment.

We want to see the EU share its experience and work for sustainable growth and full employment from the Lisbon process in its cooperation with the OAU. Sweden should during its presidency of the EU in 2009 promote the work of creating an external Lisbon strategy that aims to ensure that the policies of the EU will benefit global development in for example Africa. The strategy can contain for example concrete goals for aid, a more just trade policy and the abolition of agricultural subsidies. We want to see a stronger band between the EU and the OAU.

Changes are necessary for development and growth but the consequences of changes cannot be passed on to the individual to bear. Structural change can be welcomed if society offers security in a time of change through educational opportunities, and an economic system of security that is tied to the individual and not to the job or to the employer. The cost of starting up a company in Africa is high. Initiatives such as Business Climate Africa should be supported in order to develop structural mechanisms aimed at reducing the costs for setting up business ventures in Africa.

Sweden should therefore put pressure on organs such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to support projects that develop basic systems of security and not as is the case today, demand the opposite. General systems of social security that are managed on democratic grounds and financed by tax revenue in a spirit of solidarity contribute to economic growth and a policy of just redistribution.



The Social Democrats hold:

- that African countries must be given support to formulate goals of their own, goals that aim to create a stable macroeconomic situation
- that the EU in its cooperation with the OAU should share its experience and work for sustainable growth and full employment
- that international projects in the World Bank and in the International Monetary Fund must support the development of basic systems of social security.

3.1 Agriculture

Agriculture is the sector that employs most people in Africa. Agriculture is the decisive economic motor and this for a whole host of countries. But what could be a vital opportunity for growth in Africa, the export of agricultural products, is in fact blocked by barriers to entry to the international markets. Agricultural policy is of vital importance in the development of Africa.

Sweden must as a member of the EU act determinedly for a reform of the EU's agricultural and trade policies with the aim of abolishing trade barriers and agricultural subsidies completely.

The high food prices create social tensions and unrest. They can also undermine the long term work that is being done to strengthen democracy and human rights. One major theme in our policy is the fight against poverty.

Securing access to food and to clean water is of strategic importance. Agricultural development is a vital factor in the development of the African countries for the local markets and for securing food supplies as well as for trade and progress. The policy for Africa must prioritize more clearly measures to secure a sustainable agriculture. The shortages of food and the rising price of foodstuffs lead inevitably in the short term to starvation, unrest and risk undermining social cohesion in many African countries.

The Social Democrats hold:

- that the reform of the EU's agricultural subsidies and trade policies must be given priority
- that sustainable agriculture must be promoted and supported more clearly.



3.2 Trade and investment

A social democratic policy for Africa supports free trade. Trading relations and investment must be based on a real partnership and support the development of an open and free trade, both between African countries themselves as well as between Sweden, the EU and Africa. A special function should be created to ensure fair and just terms of trade between Europe and Africa. The production capacities and the productivity in African countries must be developed in order to provide the foundation for social policies and welfare. Increased export revenues and more jobs contribute to development. But trade and investments can if badly designed also lead to poverty, increased social divisions and the exploitation of both people and the environment. It is therefore vital that poor countries be given real means to influence those trade agreements that impact on them.

A social democratic trade policy for Africa must aim at reforms within the EU and the World Trade Organization that strengthen the abilities of poor countries to take part on equal terms in the processes that shape the conditions for trade and investment. Transparency in trade negotiations must be increased so that citizens, civil society and elected representatives are given the opportunity to take part in the dialogue. Trade policy must be one of the cornerstones in relations between the EU and Africa.

Trade must be governed by a set of rules that is fair, agreed on in concert and apply equally to all. Sweden must, within the framework of the EU, work for a trade policy that does not discriminate against products from the African countries. The so called partnership agreement (EPA) between the EU and countries in Africa is in some parts unfair and must be corrected.

The EPA agreements between the EU and Africa must result in trade agreements that are long term and development friendly. The cornerstones should be development, partnership and regional integration. The EU must be prepared to take on further and greater responsibilities than should be demanded of the African countries. When it comes to access to the market the EU must fulfill its promise of excise-free and quota-free access. Gradual access timetables will be made for only two products: sugar and rice. Fair trading conditions between Europe and Africa are an imperative demand that must be taken up in all relevant organs, the parliament, the EU and the WTO.

Trade policy must be formed in such a way that it does not contribute to environmental damage or social tensions. A social democratic policy for Africa must support Swedish initiatives that create good growth and sustainable development.



The African Diaspora plays a vital role when it comes to the transfer of external resources for investment in Africa – something that is one of the most important sources of foreign currency and investments in many countries. Our policy must therefore make the most of the knowledge and contacts provided by the African Diaspora.

With growth also follows increased savings. Domestic savings are often placed outside of Africa. A development of the financial markets and stock exchanges helps to facilitate investment in more countries. The need for capital and investment in Africa is huge. Infrastructure and services are prerequisites for growth and development. Sweden must support the development of African regional stock exchanges. The development of sustainable tourism is a major growth potential for many countries. We would also underline the importance of a Swedish presence, both in terms of development cooperation and partnership but also in trade.

Africa is a rich part of the world with tremendous natural resources. The Swedish policy for Africa should place greater emphasis on policies of redistribution. Even with high growth there are risks that only a limited share of this growth will reach the poorest. It is also important that incomes from the exploitation of raw materials benefit the population as a whole.

Swedish representation with embassies and consulates are important both for trade with Swedish companies, for the development of good bilateral relations and for the development of communities.

We social democrats take the view that the embassies marked for closure following the concentration of aid to a number of countries should be retained. Sweden cannot automatically abandon a diplomatic presence because of a termination of aid. Where aid is no longer in question, Swedish trade, enterprise, investment and other forms of contact, often more interesting and more worthwhile, come into the picture. We want to strengthen the role of the Export Agency in assisting Swedish companies to grow in Africa as well as Swedfunds involvement in growth companies in Africa.

The Social Democrats hold:

- that a special function should be set up to secure a dialogue and the promotion of transparency in the work for fair trading conditions between Europe and Africa
- that a review of the economic partnership between the EU and Africa should be carried out
- that the knowledge and contacts of those who make up the African Diaspora should be made use of in a better way



- that Sweden should support the development of the finance market and of the stock exchanges in Africa
- that the role of the Export Agency in helping Swedish companies grow in Africa must be made clearer and be strengthened as well as the involvement of Swedfund in growth companies in Africa.



4 Environment, energy, climate and sustainable development

Growth and development can and must go hand in hand with the work to ensure a good environment. To pit growth against environment interests is to deny that poor countries have the right to development and welfare.

Development means higher growth, better education, a longer life span and more welfare. This in turn leads to a consumption of energy and thereby environmentally dangerous emissions that increase the greenhouse effect and lead to climate changes. But this spiral of development is not preordained.

The Kyoto Protocol encourages a transfer of knowledge and resources to developing countries in order to promote their own research, development and ability to take part the international work in the field of the environment. Technical developments and the trade in emission vouchers are not sufficient for the handling of the increased consumption of energy and emissions in Africa as well as meeting the demands for a reduction in the total emissions in the world.

The industrialized world must tackle its own energy and resource consumption. A policy for Africa can only be successful if the rich world fulfills its obligations in climate policy. The developing countries and continents such as Africa can and must choose another road right from the start. Growth and development make for demands on limited resources but a more efficient use reduces demands. The development of renewable and environment friendly sources of energy must be shared with Africa by making them economically defensible. Sweden has both the means and the responsibility to contribute to the creation of a sustainable development in Africa. In the longer term this can create an export industry which will provide new incomes for many countries in Africa.

Sweden is one of the leading countries in the world in the field of environment technology. We intend to support a policy that provides the countries of Africa with access to current research and to new environmental technology. A special fund for investment in sustainable development and environment friendly investments in Africa will be set up.

Africa today is today and will in all probability in the future as well be hard hit by climate change. The spread of deserts and the rise in the sea level are two signs of this. The work of reducing the emission of greenhouse gases is a task of the highest priority in every political organ. Those who are suffering as a cause of war, conflicts



and natural disasters are highly exposed today. Africa runs the risk of facing large waves of refugees on account of climate and environmental changes.

The Social Democrats hold:

- that a special fund for investments in sustainable development and environment friendly investments in Africa must be created
- that priority must be given to the energy sector and especially to renewable energy and water technology.

4.1 Development Aid and partnership

For many years the dominant relationship with the countries of Africa has been through different types of cooperation on development. A broadening of relations between Sweden and Africa involves this hitherto dominant relationship be both changed and deepened at the same time.

The overriding goal for development aid is and will continue in the foreseeable future to be the fight against poverty and the achievement of the Millennium Goals. A basic precondition is that Sweden maintains the one percent goal in development aid. Sweden must however put more pressure on the rich and bigger donor countries, for example the EU and G8, to live up to their promises. Contrary to the increased needs and the promises made, the total aid given by the EU continues to fall.

In order to fulfill the Millennium goals the political, economic and social developments in Africa must be strengthened. A Swedish policy for Africa can contribute to this by working for a broadening and deepening of the image of Africa and by efforts aimed at achieving the eight Millennium Goals: the fight against poverty, education, equality between men and women and women's rights, child mortality, maternity care, HIV/aids, malaria and TBC, sustainable development and partnership.

Sweden has through its policy for global development laid down a course that requires that all areas of policy, not only development aid, must contribute to a just and sustainable development from a perspective on human rights and poverty. The overriding and common goal for cooperation in development is to contribute to creating the conditions for the poor to improve their own living conditions.

An important part of the partnership is that the issue of human rights and democracy must imbue all the work. Concrete issues in human rights, not least the lack of such or of breaches against them must be raised in the course of the partnership dialogue.



Sweden should work for increased international development aid to Africa and for a speedier and more extensive write-off of debts for the poorest countries. Writing off debt must be linked to demands for respect for all human rights, including trade union rights. There must be a mutual responsibility in the case of loans. Not only the receivers of loans but also the lender countries must shoulder responsibility for earlier, current and future loans.

The development aid and work of shaping public opinion carried out by civil society and the popular movements in Sweden will be increased. Partnership builds on the partners knowing and respecting each other.

The issues of the Brain Drain or Brain Gain as well as the role of those living in the Diaspora in development are strategic and a number of joint initiatives that aim to turn the Brain Drain into a Brain Gain will be taken. The role of those living in the Diaspora in development efforts will be highlighted and supported.

The concentration of development aid to a number of countries that is being carried through by the conservative –centre coalition government excludes a number of countries in Africa that are of strategic importance for Sweden and reduces direct contact with a number of countries and organizations. Presence is decisive for understanding and for the establishing of partnership. Sweden's ability to conduct a well grounded and efficient Africa policy must be strengthened.

The Social Democrats hold:

- that Sweden must retain the one percent goal in aid and work to get all other countries to fulfill the UN aid target of 0.7%
- that the overriding goal for aid must be and remain the fight against poverty and the work of achieving the millennium goals
- that all areas of policy must contribute to the fight against poverty and the struggle for human rights
- that we must work for a speedier writing-off of debt for the poorest countries
- that the work carried out by civil institutions and popular movements in aid and opinion building must be enhanced.

4.2 Health: HIV/aids, malaria and TBC

Africa south of the Sahara is the region of the world hardest hit by HIV/aids. At the half way point in realizing the Millennium goals this area is singled out by the UN as the area where it is most difficult to achieve these goals. The HIV/aids epidemic is a serious threat to social development and the fight against poverty.



The spread of HIV/aids coincides to a large extent with the spread of malaria and tuberculosis. Africa is the part of the world hardest hit by these diseases. The link between malaria and aids shows how they strongly interact, make the diseases worse and make treatment more difficult.

HIV/aids are a threat that in some regions can be compared to a state of war and that calls for a broad mobilization of all the forces that a community can muster. Political will and leadership are therefore vital factors if the struggle against HIV/aids can at all possibly be carried out in a consequent and efficient way. The stigmatization of HIV/aids and the lack of action on the part of responsible politicians are unacceptable. There is a link between the spread of HIV/aids and the position of women in society and for this reason we will, as a lead in the struggle against the spread of the disease, emphasize the importance of education for girls, strengthen the position of women in society and the issues of sexual and reproductive health and rights.

The Social Democrats hold:

- that we must increase support for prevention, information and research into HIV/aids, malaria and TBC and act to put a stop to the discrimination of aids sufferers
- that disease modifying drugs as well as condoms must be made available at a reasonable cost
- that sexual and reproductive health as well as rights, SRHR, must be asserted and that the position of women in all parts of society must be strengthened.

4.3 Peace and freedom

There is a direct link between poverty, development and war. The wealth of the raw materials of Africa has more often than not provided the grounds for conflicts and war. The so called Kimberly trial that led to the certification of diamonds has very clearly illustrated the link between raw materials, war and economic crimes.

Experience from this trial must be applied to other areas.

Developments in Zimbabwe over the past ten years have been frightening. A peaceful transformation to democracy and respect for human rights must take place forthwith. The agreement on a coalition government to lead the country must be encouraged as a step in the right direction. The support of social democrats to modern political movements that share our values must be increased.



The solution of conflicts, security and peace making mechanisms must be a central theme in a social democratic policy for Africa. An example of this is Western Sahara – Africa’s last remaining colony. The refugees from Western Sahara are wholly dependent on international aid for their existence. Sweden must expand its relations with Western Sahara.

We social democrats support the struggle for a free and independent Western Sahara. We demand an end to the occupation, that a referendum is carried out and that the violation of human rights on the part of Morocco in Western Sahara ceases.

It is of the utmost importance that Sweden plays a forceful role in the both the EU and the UN and demands that the resolutions adopted earlier by the UN on this issue are enforced.

The Horn of Africa, especially Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia are fraught with both internal and cross border conflicts. Important keys to a sustainable solution in these areas is the ability to build communities that function as well as establishing a state governed by law with democratic institutions on democratic foundations. Support for development as well as participation in the process of finding a solution to the conflicts should be part of Sweden’s policy for the peoples of Africa who are affected by the violence. Respect for international law and for human rights must be upheld. A free press and the opportunity for journalists to work freely are of the highest priority.

We social democrats have long felt and demonstrated a deep engagement for the people of Darfur, in the Sudan. We have stated that genocide has occurred and that the UN has the obligation to act. Our firm conviction is that the world has a responsibility to protect people when their own country is no longer capable or willing to bear that responsibility. A working group of the party called “Our World” produced a report on international law and human rights that develops the UN principle on the obligation to provide protection.

For us social democrats it is important that Sweden provides help in the war zones of Africa and continues its efforts in aid, humanitarian actions, the efforts of individual organizations, participation in the work of international organizations and in support for peace negotiations.

The Social Democrats hold:

- that Sweden must consistently defend international law, democracy and human rights



- that support in solving conflicts, security, peace keeping mechanisms and dialogues must be increased
- that Sweden both in the EU and in the UN must demand that the UN resolutions on West Sahara are implemented with all speed.

4.4 Equality between women and men

Africa is a continent with many prominent women who are role models. At the same time the majority of Africa's and of the world's poor is women and children. Exploitation, repression, prostitution and trafficking hit particularly hard in times of war and conflict. The different mechanisms of the Organization of African Unity for human rights must be given support. All efforts in relation to Africa must have a gender perspective.

A starting point for our policy must be UN resolution 1325. Promoting equality between men and women must also be a goal in the work of cooperation. Our policy must strive to strengthen sexual and reproductive health and rights, the right to free abortion as well as working for the rights of homo-, bi- and transsexuals' (HBT) rights. The Women's Convention of the Organization of African Unity and their work for human rights and for equality between women and men must be supported.

So too will the women's convention (CEDAW) be guiding in our choice of policy. Many women are subjected to violations on the simple grounds that they are women. For this reason we must highlight the women's convention in our work with Africa in order to even more strongly emphasize the need for and ensure that discrimination against women is ended.

The social democrats hold:

- that a starting point for our policy must be the UN resolution 1325 and that our efforts must be channeled through the OAU and through civil society
- that equality between women and men must be a goal in all our forms of cooperation with African partners
- that the different mechanisms for promoting human rights in the Organization of African Unity must be supported
- that the UN convention on women must be a guide in the shaping of our policies.

4.5 Trade Union rights

Exploitation, powerlessness, child labour, mortally dangerous working conditions, slave like jobs on starvation wages, sexual harassment, discrimination, violence and punishment and nonexistent rights are all a reality for hundreds of millions of people.



Social dumping, the use of these miserable conditions as a means of competition, must be opposed. Despite the fact that the majority of the nations of the world support the UN conventions on human rights and the ILO core conventions on rights in working life, the rights of people are violated daily. Multinational companies have a responsibility to follow legislation and conventions. Trade union questions are very important and must be brought to the fore.

A social democratic policy for Africa must in every context highlight and make demands that human rights, including those that govern working life, are promoted and respected. Special efforts should be made when it comes to public tendering and the control of trade agreements in international organs such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the UN. The trade union – political cooperation in our exchange with Africa must be developed and strengthened.

The Social Democrats hold:

- that demands must be made in every context that human rights, including those in workplaces, are promoted and respected
- that the trade union – political cooperation with our partners in Africa must be developed and strengthened.

